

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01

OES-07 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HEW-06 /120 W

-----054434 161842Z /41

R 160810Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 209

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 0315

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, SOPN DJ

SUBJ: CULTURAL PROGRAMMING POSSIBILITIES

1. AS AFRICA'S NEWEST STATE, DJIBOUTI NOW SEES CONSIDERABLE NEED TO ENLARGE ITS VISION OF THE WORLD. FROM ALL SIDES, THE POST RECEIVES INQUIRIES ABOUT OUR FUTURE PLANS IN THE CULTURAL AREA. WE HAVE NO GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON IN THIS DOMAIN AND WOULD LIKE TO STIMULATE BY THIS MESSAGE SOME NEEDED ATTENTION TO PROGRAMMING POSSIBILITIES IN DJIBOUTI.

2. RADIO AND TELEVISION. PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, ALL PROGRAMMING IN RADIO AND TELEVISION WAS HANDLED BY THE FRENCH THIRD NETWORK (FR3). IT WAS RATHER DREARY FARE, CONSISTING ALMOST ENTIRELY OF ENDLESS TALK SHOWS AND COSTUME SHOWS ABOUT BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AND AGES WITH LITTLE RELEVANCE TO THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI. WITH LITTLE STYLE,. THE FR3 PEOPLE SIMPLY LOCKEDUP THE RADIO AND TV STUDIOS AT MIDNIGHT 26 JUNE AND LEFT THE COUNTRY. NO GREAT LOSS, AND SOMEONE FOUND THE KEYS AT THE AIRPORT.

3. THE LOCAL RADIO AND TV DIRECTOR IS NOW USING MATERIAL FROM ANYWHERE IT CAN BE FOUND. HE HAS ASKED THE CHARGE FOR ANYTHING UNCLASSIFIED

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AVAILABLE: CLASSIC FILMS, SPORTS COVERAGE (OLD OR RECENT), LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING (BOTH RADIO AND TV), SCIENCE SHOWS,NATURE PROGRAMS. THERE IS READY MARKET HERE FOR TV AND RADIO MATERIAL IN FRENCH OR ARABIC. OTHER LANGUAGES USED ARE SOMALI AND AFAR, WHICH WE ASSUME ARE NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH USIS.

4. READING ROOM/LIBRARY FACILITIES. DJIBOUTI IS DEMOGRAPHICALLY

A VERY YOUNG COUNTRY, WITH OVER HALF THE POPULATION UNDER THE AGE OF 20. GIVEN THE ENORMOUS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN DJIBOUTI THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE SEARCHING FOR AWAYS TO RELIEVE THE PROBLEMS THROUGH VOCATIONAL AND OTHER TRAINING. DJIBOUTI DOES NOT HAVE ANY CULTURAL CENTERS AND THE LOCAL LIBRARY CONSISTS OF ONE ROOM IN A TAWDRY BUILDING. CHARGE HAS TRIED TO VISIT LIBRARY BUT HAS NEVER FOUND IT OPEN. THE MAYOR (CHEF DE DISTRICT) HAS ASKED CHARGE TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT (MOVIE PROJECTORS), FILMS, BOOKS AND OTHER GOODS TO SATISFY THE THIRST OF THE POPULATION FOR EDUCATION. IN THIS AREA, ENGLISH AS WELL AS FRENCH LANGUAGE MATERIAL CAN BE EQUALLY USEFUL. A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL YOUTH ARE ANGLOPHONE, HAVING BEEN EDUCATED IN SOMALIA AND IN SOME CASES, ETHIOPIA. THE MAYOR HAS SAID THAT HE CAN SUPPLY PERSONNEL TO HANDLE READING ROOM MATERIALS IF WE CAN SUPPLY MATERIALS.

5. FILMS. THERE ARE TWO LOCAL OPEN AIR MOVIE THEATERS. NOT TOO AGREEABLE IN THIS CLIMATE. HOWEVER, APRT FROM THE READY RESOURCE OF THE TELEVISION, THE POST COULD PUT ON MATERIAL IN LOCAL HOTELS WHICH WOULD BE PLEASED TO SPONSOR SUCH ACTIVITIES. WE COULD ALSO PROJECT FILMS IN SOON-TO-BE-AQUIRED RESIDENCE.

6. SCHOLARSHIPS. AS CAN BE EXPECTED AT A NEW POST, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN DELUGED WITH REQUESTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS. MOST ,UNFORTUNATELY, HAVE NOT FINISHED SECONDARY EDUCATION OR HAVE HAD STUDIES INTERRUPTED BY POLITICAL EVENTS IN NEIGHBORING STATES.  
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POST WISHES INFORMATION TO RESPOND THESE INQUIRIES.

7. DJIBOUTI IS QUITE A REFRESHING COUNTRY FROM THE CULTURAL PROGRAMMING POINT OF VIEW. EVERYONE APPEARS EAGER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE U.S. AND THERE IS ALMOST A TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANY COUNTERBALANCING FORCES. ARAB STATES SUCH AS EGYPT AND GULF STATES ARE PLANNING EXTEND ARAB LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING BUT REPRESENTATIVES THOSE STATES SEE NO PROBLEM IN U.S. PROGRAMMING. QUITE APART FROM THE FACT THAT PRECIPITOUS EXIT FRE AT INDEPENDENCE LEFT VIRTUAL VACUUM HERE, THERE ARE SERIOUS NEEDS HERE FOR THE KINDS OF MATERIALS WE CAN PROVIDE.

8. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED LOOK PROMPTLY INTO THE ABOVE POSSIBILITIES AND INFORM POST WHAT POSSIBILITIES ARE AVAILABLE.CLARKE

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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